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 Contact: Teri Rizvi
 rizvi@udayton.edu

NEWS RELEASE

FATHER GENE CONTADINO TO STEP DOWN AS RECTOR, INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING LAY LEADERSHIP AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio — The Rev. Eugene Contadino, S.M., who's been instrumental in developing lay leadership and strengthening the University of Dayton's mission as a Catholic, Marianist university, will step down as rector on June 30 after completing a third three-year term.

The rector, a joint appointment by the president and the provincial of the Marianist Province of the United States, is responsible for coordinating activities of the Marianist community and fostering a Marianist spirit on campus, particularly among new students, faculty and staff.

The Society of Mary religious order routinely reviews where Marianists serve and where they can have the greatest impact. With the end of Contadino's third term nearing, the Marianist Province examined UD's needs. At the request of University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran, Contadino will work with Curran in promoting UD's mission to alumni and friends.

"One of Father Gene's tremendous assets is his ability to connect with people and communicate the Marianist charism. That's his gift. I look forward to working with him in this new role," Curran said.

A search for a new rector will begin soon. It's an important role on Catholic campuses as more and more lay people are taking leadership positions in an age of shrinking religious orders. "During his tenure as rector, Father Gene has made it his passion to work at Marianist development of lay leadership at the University," Brother Stephen M. Glodek, S.M., provincial,

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and Curran wrote in a joint letter to Marianists in Dayton. "In a period of dramatic transition, the office of the rector held the steady keel for the University as it navigated the waters of what it means to be Catholic and Marianist and deeply committed to the academy and its pursuit of truth in those contexts."

During Contadino's nine years as rector, he co-chaired a campus task force that made recommendations for strengthening UD's Catholic and Marianist identity; helped develop an orientation program for new employees to introduce them to the Catholic, Marianist mission of UD; expanded the Rector's Council to include lay leaders; administered the annual Lackner Awards that recognize faculty and staff who have made exemplary contributions to UD's mission; organized the annual Marianist Heritage Week, culminating in honoring a nationally recognized scholar with the Marianist Award; and introduced faculty, staff and students to the Marianist charism through dinners and discussions. Previously, Contadino spent 12 years as a campus minister at UD.

"The rector's job is a trust given to members of the Society of Mary. "I am honored to have been given that trust and that on my watch we've been able to include more laity, faculty, staff and students in the University's Marianist mission," Contadino said.

Marianists live a simple life together as equals. They draw their inspiration from Mary, the mother of Jesus, and believe strongly in service to the youth and the poor and in the power of people working together in a common mission. At the University of Dayton, many live on campus in Alumni Hall or share houses in the student neighborhoods. They work in various capacities — from teaching in classrooms to serving in a number of administrative roles.

In 1850, a priest and three brothers started St. Mary's School for Boys, which initially enrolled 14 students. It eventually became the University of Dayton and grew into the state's largest independent university and one of the 10 best national Catholic universities in the nation. The University of Dayton is the largest of three Marianist universities, which includes St. Mary's University in San Antonio and Chaminade University of Honolulu.